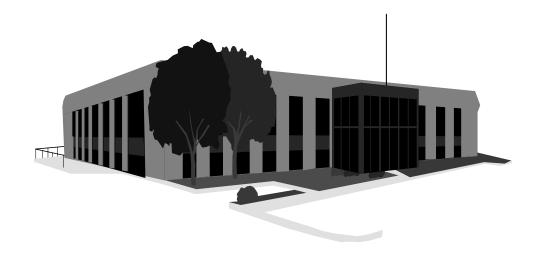
# INDOOR AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENT

# Abraham Lincoln Elementary School 300 Chelmsford Street Lowell, Massachusetts



Prepared by: Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment June, 2000

## **Background/Introduction**

At the request of the Lowell Health Department, the Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH), Bureau of Environmental Health Assessment (BEHA) was asked to provide assistance and consultation regarding indoor air quality issues and health concerns at the Abraham Lincoln Elementary School in Lowell, Massachusetts.

On March 16, 2000 Cory Holmes, Environmental Analyst of the Emergency
Response/Indoor Air Quality (ER/IAQ) Program and Suzan Donahue, Research
Assistant, BEHA conducted an indoor air quality assessment. John Collins of the Lowell
Health Department and Jeff Goor, Head Custodian, accompanied Mr. Holmes and Ms.
Donahue for portions of the assessment.

The school is a two-story brick building built in 1993. The second floor consists mainly of general classrooms and library. The first floor contains general classrooms, offices, gymnasium and cafeteria.

## Methods

Air tests for carbon dioxide were taken with the Telaire, Carbon Dioxide Monitor and tests for temperature and relative humidity were taken with a Mannix, TH Pen PTH 8708 Thermo-Hygrometer. Wind speed and direction were measured with a Davis, Wind Wizard, Wind Speed Indicator.

#### Results

This elementary school houses pre-kindergarten through grade 4, with a student population of approximately 500 and a staff of approximately 80. The tests were taken under normal operating conditions. Test results appear in Tables 1-7.

#### Discussion

#### Ventilation

It can be seen from the tables that the carbon dioxide levels were elevated above 800 ppm (parts per million) in seventeen of forty-five areas surveyed indicating a ventilation problem in these areas of the school. It should be noted that many rooms had open windows/doors during the assessment, which can greatly contribute to reduced carbon dioxide levels. Rooms 108, 201, 204 and 213 measured above 800 ppm with open windows, which indicates little air exchange in these rooms.

Fresh air in classrooms is supplied by a unit ventilator (univent) system (see Figure 1). Univents draw air from outdoors through a fresh air intake located on the exterior walls of the building and return air through an air intake located at the base of each unit. The mixture of fresh and return air is drawn through a filter and a heating coil, and is then expelled from the univent by motorized fans through fresh air diffusers.

Univents were deactivated in a number of classrooms surveyed as well as in the cafeteria. Many of the univents appeared to have been deactivated by occupants. BEHA staff were able to activate several of these units using univent power switches (see Tables).

Obstructions to airflow, such as books, papers and posters on top of univents, and bookcases, tables and desks in front of univent returns, were seen in a number of classrooms (see Picture 1). To function as designed, univents and univent returns must remain free of obstructions. Importantly, these units must be activated and allowed to operate during school hours. Also noted in the interior of some univents were learning materials (i.e., flashcards), trash and debris (see Picture 2).

The mechanical exhaust ventilation system consists of ceiling mounted exhaust vents (see Picture 3). Exhaust vents were not functioning in a number of classrooms,

which can indicate that exhaust ventilation was turned off, or that rooftop motors were not functioning. BEHA staff examined exhaust motors on the roof and found that many exhaust motors were off. In addition, exhaust ventilation for the cafeteria and computer room was also deactivated during the assessment.

To maximize air exchange, the BEHA recommends that both supply and exhaust ventilation operate continuously during periods of school occupancy. In order to have proper ventilation with a univent and exhaust system, the systems must be balanced to provide an adequate amount of fresh air to the interior of a room while removing stale air from the room. The date of the last balancing of these systems was not available at the time of the assessment.

The Massachusetts Building Code requires a minimum ventilation rate of 15 cubic feet per minute (cfm) per occupant of fresh outside air or have openable windows in each room (BOCA, 1993, SBBRS, 1997). The ventilation must be on at all times that the room is occupied. Providing adequate fresh air ventilation with open windows and maintaining the temperature in the comfort range during the cold weather season is impractical. Mechanical ventilation is usually required to provide adequate fresh air ventilation.

Carbon dioxide is not a problem in and of itself. It is used as an indicator of the adequacy of the fresh air ventilation. As carbon dioxide levels rise, it indicates that the ventilating system is malfunctioning or the design occupancy of the room is being exceeded. When this happens a buildup of common indoor air pollutants can occur, leading to discomfort or health complaints. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard for carbon dioxide is 5,000 parts per million parts of air (ppm). Workers may be exposed to this level for 40 hours/week based on a time-weighted average (OSHA, 1997).

The Department of Public Health uses a guideline of 800 ppm for publicly occupied buildings. A guideline of 600 ppm or less is preferred in schools due to the fact that the majority of occupants are young and considered to be a more sensitive population in the evaluation of environmental health status. Inadequate ventilation and/or elevated temperatures are major causes of complaints such as respiratory, eye, nose and throat irritation, lethargy and headaches.

Temperature readings were within a range of 71° F to 82° F, with twenty-three of forty-five areas measuring above the BEHA recommended range. The BEHA recommends that indoor air temperatures be maintained in a range of 70° F to 78° F in order to provide for the comfort of building occupants. A number of temperature control complaints were expressed to BEHA staff during the assessment, which may indicate that thermostats are malfunctioning and may need repair/replacement. It should be noted that it was an unseasonably warm day with an outdoor temperature of 65° F. In many cases concerning indoor air quality, fluctuations of temperature in occupied spaces are typically experienced, even in a building with an adequate fresh air supply.

The relative humidity in this building was below the BEHA recommended comfort range in all areas sampled. Relative humidity measurements ranged from 16 to 35 percent. The BEHA recommends that indoor air relative humidity is comfortable in a range of 40 to 60 percent. Relative humidity levels in the building would be expected to drop during the winter months due to heating. The sensation of dryness and irritation is common in a low relative humidity environment. Low relative humidity is a very common problem during the heating season in the northeast part of the United States.

#### Microbial/Moisture Concerns

Several classrooms had a number of plants. Moistened plant soil and drip pans can be a source of mold growth. The lack of drip pans can lead to water pooling and mold growth on windowsills. Plants are also a source of pollen. Plants in several classrooms were noted near univent air diffusers (see Picture 4). Plants should be located away from the air stream of ventilation sources to prevent the aerosolization of mold, pollen or particulate matter throughout the classroom.

Water damaged pipe insulation and ceiling tiles were noted in the northwest stairwell, which can indicate leaks from either the roof or plumbing system (see Picture 5). If wetted repeatedly, porous materials (i.e., ceiling tiles, pipe insulation) can grow mold and be a source of unpleasant odors. Water-damaged building materials should be replaced after a water leak is discovered and repaired. A recent leak above the ceiling tiles was reported in Mr. Hall's Office adjacent to the library; a water-stained ceiling tile was noted in this area (see Picture 6).

Building occupants reported mold/mildew growth on plastic items in room 106 (see Picture 7). A black mold-like substance was noted on these items. Non-porous items should be cleaned with an appropriate antimicrobial. Porous items should be discarded because they are difficult to clean. Also noted in this room were spaces between the sink countertop and backsplash (see Picture 8). Improper drainage or overflow could lead to water penetration of countertop wood, the cabinet interior and behind cabinets. Reports of mold growth on water-damaged wallboard were also expressed to BEHA staff. Like other porous materials, if gypsum wallboard becomes wet repeatedly it can provide a medium for mold growth, which is difficult to clean. This material can be irritating to sensitive individuals. Water-damaged gypsum wallboard

cannot be adequately cleaned to remove mold growth. Once mold has colonized, the material should be removed and discarded.

In a number of classrooms, paper products, board games and other porous items were found stored underneath sinks. If these items become wet repeatedly they can provide a medium for mold growth. These items should be relocated to a warm, dry environment.

A perimeter inspection of the building was conducted in which BEHA staff noted a potential problem with the school's drainage system. Picture 9 shows a green organic material growing on exterior brickwork near the main entrance of the building. The pattern and location of growth appears to be evidence of improper drainage, which would allow back-splashing rainwater to impact on the ground below and chronically wet the exterior wall. Downspouts should be designed to direct rainwater away from the base of the building to prevent the chronic wetting of exterior walls which can result in damaged brickwork and/or mold growth. Over time rainwater can work its way into mortar and brickwork causing cracks and fissures, which can lead to water penetration.

#### **Other Concerns**

Several other conditions were noted during the assessment, which can affect indoor air quality. Cleaning products and other materials (e.g., spray paint, rubber cement and isopropyl alcohol) were found on counter-tops and beneath sinks in a number of classrooms (see Picture 10). These items can contain chemicals, which can be irritating to the eyes, nose and throat and should be stored properly and out of reach of students. In addition, rubber cement is a flammable material, which should be stored in a flameproof cabinet.

Also of note was the amount of materials stored inside classrooms. In classrooms throughout the school, items were observed to be piled on windowsills, tabletops, counters, bookcases and desks. The large number of items stored in classrooms provide a source for dusts to accumulate. These items, (e.g., papers, folders, boxes, etc.) make it difficult for custodial staff to clean in and around these areas. Dust can be irritating to eyes, nose and respiratory tract. These items should be relocated and/or should be cleaned periodically to avoid excessive dust build up. In addition, a number of exhaust vents in classrooms were noted with accumulated dust. If exhaust vents are not functioning, backdrafting can occur, which can re-aerosolize household dust particles.

Several classrooms contained dry erase boards and dry erase board markers. Materials such as dry erase markers and dry erase board cleaners may contain volatile organic compounds (VOCs), (e.g. methyl isobutyl ketone, n-butyl acetate and butyl-cellusolve) (Sanford, 1999), which can be irritating to the eyes, nose and throat.

Several areas have lamination machines and/or photocopiers. Lamination machines give off odors (see Picture 11). Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and ozone can be produced by photocopiers, particularly if the equipment is older and in frequent use. Ozone is a respiratory irritant (Schmidt Etkin, D., 1992). School personnel should ensure that local exhaust ventilation is activated while equipment is in use to help reduce excess heat and odors in these areas.

Building occupants reported complaints of wood-stove smoke odors in classrooms. These odors may be attributed to the entrainment of wood-stove smoke from neighboring homes through univent fresh air intakes. Complaints of odors/allergies were also reported in the building. This was attributed to lawn mowing operations conducted during school hours and the entrainment of grass clippings and plant matter through univent fresh air intakes. Lawn mowing and other landscaping activities can generate

airborne particulate matter (i.e. dirt, dust and pollen) which can be irritating to the eyes, nose and respiratory system. On the day of the assessment, none of these odors were present.

A strong odor of deodorizer was detected upon entry into the boy's and girl's first floor restrooms. The source was identified as ceiling-mounted, time-released air fresheners (see Picture 12). Air fresheners and cleaning products contain chemicals that can be irritating to certain sensitive individuals. In addition, air fresheners do not remove materials causing odors, but rather mask odors which may be present in the area.

An unidentified white powdery material was noted on the return grill of the univent in room 215 (AV room) (see Picture 13). This material should be identified and cleaned to avoid being drawn in to the univent air stream and distributed throughout the room.

Science classroom 214 contained several terrariums; some containing rotted food items. Terrariums should be maintained to prevent mold/bacterial growth and/or unpleasant odors.

## Conclusions/Recommendations

In view of the findings at the time of our inspection, the following recommendations are made:

- To maximize air exchange, the BEHA recommends that both supply and exhaust ventilation operate continuously during periods of school occupancy independent of classroom thermostat control.
- 2. Examine each univent for function. Survey classrooms for univent function to ascertain if an adequate air supply exists for each room. Consider consulting a heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) engineer concerning the calibration of univent fresh air control dampers school-wide.
- Change filters for air-handling equipment as per the manufacture's instructions or more frequently if needed.
- 4. Remove all blockages from univents and exhaust ventilators to ensure adequate airflow. Clean out interiors of univents.
- 5. Once both the fresh air supply and the exhaust ventilation are functioning properly, the system should be balanced.
- 6. For buildings in New England, periods of low relative humidity during the winter are often unavoidable. Therefore, scrupulous cleaning practices should be adopted to minimize common indoor air contaminants whose irritant effects can be enhanced when the relative humidity is low. To control for dusts, a HEPA filter equipped vacuum cleaner in conjunction with wet wiping of all non-porous surfaces is recommended. Drinking water during the day can help ease some symptoms associated with a dry environment (throat and sinus irritations).
- 7. Repair and/or replace thermostats as necessary to maintain control of comfort.

- 8. Keep plants away from univents in classrooms. Ensure plants have drip pans, examine drip pans for mold growth and disinfect areas with an appropriate antimicrobial where necessary.
- 9. Replace any remaining water-stained ceiling tiles, wall board and pipe insulation.

  Examine the areas above and around these areas for mold growth. Repair water leaks and disinfect areas of water leakage with an appropriate antimicrobial if necessary.
- 10. Inspect/install drainage to prevent the impact of back-splashing rainwater on exterior brickwork. Remove growth and disinfect areas noted in Picture 9 with an appropriate antimicrobial as needed.
- 11. Seal areas around sink in classroom 106, to prevent water-damage to interior of cabinets and adjacent wallboard. Inspect wallboard for water-damage and mold/mildew growth, repair/replace as necessary. Disinfect areas of microbial growth with an appropriate antimicrobial as needed.
- Do not store paper products or other cellulose-containing materials beneath sinks.
  To prevent water damage to these materials, remove them from beneath sink of classroom 217.
- 13. Store cleaning products and chemicals properly and keep out of reach of students.
- 14. Relocate or consider reducing the amount of materials stored in classrooms to allow for more thorough cleaning of classrooms. Clean items regularly with a wet cloth or sponge to prevent excessive dust build-up.
- 15. Ensure exhaust ventilation is functioning in areas that contain lamination machines and photocopiers.
- 16. Consider using charcoal filters in univents of classrooms that have a history of wood stove odors from neighboring houses during the heating season.

- 17. Conduct mowing operations after school or during unoccupied periods. Shut off unit ventilators adjacent to mowing operations to avoid the entrainment of grass clippings and plant matter.
- 18. Refrain from using strong scented materials in classrooms and restrooms.
- 19. Clean and maintain aquariums, terrariums and animal cages to prevent bacterial/mold growth and/or odors.
- 20. Identify and clean white, powdery material on univent return grill in room 215 to prevent it from being drawn in to the univent air stream.

## References

BOCA. 1993. The BOCA National Mechanical Code/1993. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. Building Officials & Code Administrators International, Inc., Country Club Hills, IL.

OSHA. 1997. Limits for Air Contaminants. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Code of Federal Regulations. 29 C.F.R 1910.1000 Table Z-1-A.

Sanford. 1999. Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS No: 198-17). Expo® Dry Erase Markers Bullet, Chisel, and Ultra Fine Tip. Sanford Corporation. Bellwood, IL.

SBBRS. 1997. Mechanical Ventilation. State Board of Building Regulations and Standards. Code of Massachusetts Regulations. 780 CMR 1209.0

Schmidt Etkin, D. 1992. Office Furnishings/Equipment & IAQ Health Impacts, Prevention & Mitigation. Cutter Information Corporation, Indoor Air Quality Update, Arlington, MA.



Objects Stored on and around Classroom Univent Obstructing Airflow



Interior of Classroom Univent Note Materials and Debris on Floor



Ceiling-Mounted Exhaust Vent Noted in Classroom



Flowering Plants Noted on Top of Classroom Univent Note Soil and Plant Debris on Surface



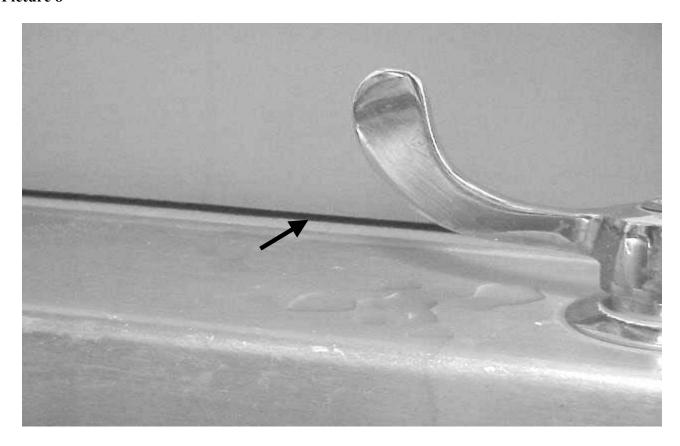
Water-Damaged Pipe Insulation in Northwest Hallway



Water-Stained Ceiling Tile Noted in Office Adjacent to the Library



Plastic Container Noted in Room 106 with Possible Mold Colonies (as Indicated by Black Spots)



Space Noted Between Backsplash and Countertop in Room 106



**Green Organic Material Noted on Exterior Brickwork** 



Cleaning Products Stored beneath Sink in Unlocked Classroom Cabinet



Photocopiers and Lamination Machine Noted in Teacher's Workroom



Ceiling-Mounted Time-Released Air Freshener Noted in Restroom



Unidentified White Powdery Substance Noted on Univent Return Grill in the AV Room (Room 215)

TABLE 1

Indoor Air Test Results –Lincoln Elementary School, Lowell, MA – March 16, 2000

| Remarks                        | Carbon          | Temp. | Relative      | Occupants | Windows  | Venti  | ilation | Remarks  |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|--|
|                                | Dioxide<br>*ppm | °F    | Humidity<br>% | in Room   | Openable | Intake | Exhaust |  |
| Outside (Background)           | 423             | 65    | 40            |           |          |        |         | weather conditions: clear, sunny, SW wind ~ 5 mph  |
| Main Office<br>Reception Area  | 670             | 74    | 28            | 2         | yes      | yes    | yes     | photocopier, 5 plants-3 window planters, carpet  |
| Main Office<br>Conference Room | 624             | 74    | 29            | 5         | yes      | yes    | yes     | lamination machine, refrigerator, microwave  |
| Room 113                       | 855             | 75    | 30            | 22        | yes      | yes    | yes     | univent return blocked by cart, exhaust off, cleaning product under sink, dry erase board-odor   |
| Room 111                       | 979             | 75    | 31            | 22        | yes      | yes    | yes     | univent and exhaust off, 8 plants over<br>univent-on paper plates, 1 CT, door<br>open, cleaning product/towels/paper<br>products under sink  |
| Room 125                       | 626             | 74    | 27            | 0         | no       | yes    | yes     |  |
| Room 109                       | 861             | 77    | 30            | 25        | yes      | yes    | yes     | items on univent/return blocked by table, exhaust off, 2 ceiling tiles ajar, cleaning product under sink, 2 plants, coffee maker-on/coffee odor, odor complaints reported (smoke/wood stove) |

\* ppm = parts per million parts of air CT = water-damaged ceiling tiles

Carbon Dioxide - < 600 ppm = preferred

600 - 800 ppm = acceptable

> 800 ppm = indicative of ventilation problems

TABLE 2

Indoor Air Test Results –Lincoln Elementary School, Lowell, MA – March 16, 2000

| Remarks                | Carbon          | Temp. | Relative      | Occupants | Windows  | Venti  | ilation | Remarks  |
|------------------------|-----------------|-------|---------------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|--|
|                        | Dioxide<br>*ppm | °F    | Humidity<br>% | in Room   | Openable | Intake | Exhaust |  |
| Ladies Restroom        |                 |       |               |           |          |        | yes     | spray cleaner on table, exhaust weak, no floor drain   |
| Girls' Restroom        |                 |       |               |           |          |        | yes (3) | 2 ceiling mounted air fresheners-odor,<br>3 small exhaust vents-on/weak, 1 large<br>exhaust vent-off |
| Room 107<br>Music Room | 1024            | 76    | 33            | 23        | yes      | yes    | yes     | univent and exhaust off, univent opened by BEHA-needs filter change                                  |
| Room 219               | 727             | 80    | 24            | 19        | yes      | yes    | yes     | exhaust off, cleaning product on counter   |
| Room 211               | 1130            | 81    | 27            | 23        | yes      | yes    | yes     | items on univent/return blocked, exhaust off, cleaning product on sink                               |
| Room 209               | 660             | 81    | 25            | 19        | yes      | yes    | yes     | 2 CT, window open, 2 plants  |
| Room 207               | 818             | 81    | 25            | 27        | yes      | yes    | yes     |  |
| Room 205               | 682             | 80    | 25            | 16        | yes      | yes    | yes     | 2 windows open, 2 plants, complaints-wheezing  |
| Room 203               | 964             | 80    | 31            | 15        | yes      | yes    | yes     |  |
| Room 201               | 1036            | 80    | 27            | 24        | yes      | yes    | yes     | window open, univent off/return blocked by table, 2 plants   |

\* ppm = parts per million parts of air CT = water-damaged ceiling tiles

Carbon Dioxide - < 600 ppm = preferred

600 - 800 ppm = acceptable

> 800 ppm = indicative of ventilation problems

TABLE 3

Indoor Air Test Results –Lincoln Elementary School, Lowell, MA – March 16, 2000

| Remarks                           | Carbon          | Temp. | Relative   | Occupants | Windows  | Venti  | lation  | Remarks   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|-------|------------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|---|
|                                   | Dioxide<br>*ppm | °F    | Humidity % | in Room   | Openable | Intake | Exhaust |   |
| Room 204                          | 852             | 80    | 26         | 22        | yes      | yes    | yes     | window open, cleaning product on desk   |
| Room 202                          | 802             | 80    | 33         | 1         | yes      | yes    | yes     | univent and exhaust off, cleaning product on counter  |
| Room 115 – Gym                    | 442             | 74    | 27         | 19        | no       | yes    | yes     | water fountain-panel missing-draft from wall space  |
| Room 105                          | 502             | 75    | 29         | 3         | yes      | yes    | yes     | univent partially blocked, cleaning product on sink, exterior door, restroom exhaust-on                                 |
| Room 103                          | 567             | 76    | 27         | 3         | yes      | yes    | yes     | 1 CT, exterior door, restroom exhaust-<br>on, 20+ plants over univent, stuff  |
| Room 101                          | 690             | 76    | 30         | 17        | yes      | yes    | yes     | univent return blocked, restroom<br>exhaust-on, exterior door,<br>bleach/plastic bags under sink                        |
| Room 228<br>Teachers'<br>Workroom | 575             | 77    | 29         | 0         | no       | yes    | yes     | lamination machine, soda machine on carpet, refrigerator, cardboard recycle box, cleaning product under sink, door open |
| Room 228A<br>Teachers' Lounge     | 536             | 77    | 29         | 3         | yes      | yes    | yes     | photocopier under air diffuser (out of order), window and door open   |
| Ladies' Restroom                  |                 |       |            |           |          |        | yes     |   |

\* ppm = parts per million parts of air CT = water-damaged ceiling tiles

Carbon Dioxide - < 600 ppm = preferred

600 - 800 ppm = acceptable

> 800 ppm = indicative of ventilation problems

TABLE 4

Indoor Air Test Results –Lincoln Elementary School, Lowell, MA – March 16, 2000

| Remarks                           | Carbon  | Temp. | Relative | Occupants | Windows  | Venti  | ilation | Remarks  |
|-----------------------------------|---------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|--|
|                                   | Dioxide | °F    | Humidity | in Room   | Openable | Intake | Exhaust |  |
|                                   | *ppm    |       | %        |           |          |        |         |  |
| Room 215                          | 576     | 78    | 26       | 2         | no       | yes    | yes     | univent and exhaust off, cleaning product under sink   |
| Room 217                          | 685     | 80    | 26       | 28        | yes      | yes    | yes     | univent off-reported malfunctions,<br>window and door open, elec. stove-on<br>(making muffins), refrigerator |
| Room 213                          | 973     | 82    | 35       | 21        | yes      | yes    | yes     | exhaust off, window open, 8 plants, cardboard recycle box, reported woodstove odors                          |
| Room 206                          | 744     | 81    | 20       | 15        | yes      | yes    | yes     | 1 CT, window open, odor-<br>strong/musty-like  |
| Room 126D                         | 548     | 71    | 25       | 1         | no       | yes    | yes     | door open  |
| Principal's Office                | 539     | 71    | 28       | 1         | yes      | yes    | yes     |  |
| Room 112<br>Art Room              | 549     | 76    | 23       | 0         | yes      | yes    | yes     |  |
| Room 124<br>Teachers'<br>Workroom | 621     | 77    | 24       | 2         | yes      | yes    | yes     | photocopier, lamination machine, 2 plants  |
| Room 110                          | 950     | 79    | 23       | 26        | yes      | yes    | yes     | exhaust off, recycling-empty cans  |

\* ppm = parts per million parts of air CT = water-damaged ceiling tiles

Carbon Dioxide - < 600 ppm = preferred

600 - 800 ppm = acceptable

> 800 ppm = indicative of ventilation problems

TABLE 5
Indoor Air Test Results –Lincoln Elementary School, Lowell, MA – March 16, 2000

| Remarks          | Carbon          | Temp. | Relative   | Occupants | Windows  | Venti  | ilation | Remarks  |
|------------------|-----------------|-------|------------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|--|
|                  | Dioxide<br>*ppm | °F    | Humidity % | in Room   | Openable | Intake | Exhaust |  |
| 114              | 700             | 76    | 20         | 0         | no       | yes    | yes     | lots of stored materials   |
| Room 126-E       | 648             | 76    | 20         | 1         | no       | yes    | yes     |  |
| Mens' Restroom   |                 |       |            |           |          |        | yes     |  |
| Room 108         | 828             | 81    | 21         | 25        | yes      | yes    | yes     | window open, univent and exhaust off-<br>univent activated by BEHA staff, heat<br>complaints   |
| Boys' Restroom   |                 |       |            |           |          |        | yes     | ceiling mounted air fresheners   |
| Cafeteria        | 665             | 79    | 22         | ~120      | yes      | yes    | yes     | 5 CT, plants-standing water in drip pans   |
| Custodial Closet |                 |       |            |           |          |        | yes     | allergy complaints   |
| Room 106         | 764             | 78    | 23         | 16        | yes      | yes    | yes     | univent off, space around backsplash, reports of mold growth behind backsplash on wallboard/on toys and other items, 1 ceiling tile ajar |
| Room 104         | 900             | 77    | 24         | 19        | yes      | yes    | yes     | items on univent, cleaning product under sink  |

\* ppm = parts per million parts of air CT = water-damaged ceiling tiles

Carbon Dioxide - < 600 ppm = preferred

600 - 800 ppm = acceptable

> 800 ppm = indicative of ventilation problems

TABLE 6

Indoor Air Test Results –Lincoln Elementary School, Lowell, MA – March 16, 2000

| Remarks             | Carbon  | Temp. | Relative | Occupants | Windows  | Venti  | ilation | Remarks                                 |
|---------------------|---------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|--------|---------|---|
|                     | Dioxide | °F    | Humidity | in Room   | Openable | Intake | Exhaust |   |
|                     | *ppm    |       | %        |           |          |        |         |   |
| Room 102            | 1003    | 78    | 25       | 20        | yes      | yes    | yes     | univent off, space under exterior door, |
|                     |         |       |          |           |          |        |         | 1 ceiling tile ajar, temperature        |
|                     |         |       |          |           |          |        |         | complaints (cold)-thermostat problems   |
| Northwest Stairwell |         |       |          |           |          |        |         | water damaged ceiling/insulation-       |
|                     |         |       |          |           |          |        |         | exposed fiberglass                      |
| Room 216            | 735     | 77    | 18       | 31        | yes      | yes    | yes     | plants                                  |
| Library             |         |       |          |           |          |        |         |   |
| Reading Room        | 680     | 82    | 16       | 0         | yes      | yes    | yes     | dry erase board and cleaner, door open  |
|                     |         |       |          |           |          |        |         |   |
| Mr. Hall's Office   | 692     | 81    | 20       | 0         | yes      | yes    | yes     | reports of recent leak above ceiling    |
|                     |         |       |          |           | J        |        |         | tile, door open                         |
| AV Room 6 (215)     | 690     | 80    | 16       | 0         | yes      | yes    | no      | computer main frame, univent/air        |
|                     |         |       |          |           | -        |        |         | conditioning, white material            |
| Room 218            | 703     | 81    | 18       | 23        | yes      | yes    | yes     | 2 univents off, exhaust off, window     |
| Computer Room       |         |       |          |           |          |        |         | open, 30 computers                      |
| Room 214            | 1223    | 82    | 22       | 1         | yes      | yes    | yes     | 25 occupants gone 40 min., univent      |
|                     |         |       |          |           | J        |        |         | and exhaust off, plant and other items  |
|                     |         |       |          |           |          |        |         | on univent, reports of noise from       |
|                     |         |       |          |           |          |        |         | univent, snails in terrarium-old food   |
| Room 212            | 924     | 81    | 21       | 16        | yes      | yes    | yes     | exhaust off                             |
|                     |         |       |          |           | _        |        |         |   |

\* ppm = parts per million parts of air CT = water-damaged ceiling tiles

Carbon Dioxide - < 600 ppm = preferred

600 - 800 ppm = acceptable

> 800 ppm = indicative of ventilation problems

TABLE 7

Indoor Air Test Results –Lincoln Elementary School, Lowell, MA – March 16, 2000

| Remarks  | Carbon  | Temp. | Relative | Occupants | Windows  | Ventilation |         | Remarks                            |
|----------|---------|-------|----------|-----------|----------|-------------|---------|------------------------------------|
|          | Dioxide | °F    | Humidity | in Room   | Openable | Intake      | Exhaust |                                    |
|          | *ppm    |       | %        |           |          |             |         |                                    |
| Room 210 | 787     | 80    | 20       | 1         | yes      | yes         | yes     | univent off, books and boxes on    |
|          |         |       |          |           |          |             |         | univent, door open                 |
| Room 208 | 713     | 80    | 19       | 27        | yes      | yes         | yes     | 6 CT-some painted over, history of |
|          |         |       |          |           |          |             |         | water leaks, window open, 2 plants |

\* ppm = parts per million parts of air CT = water-damaged ceiling tiles

#### **Comfort Guidelines**

Carbon Dioxide - < 600 ppm = preferred

600 - 800 ppm = acceptable

> 800 ppm = indicative of ventilation problems